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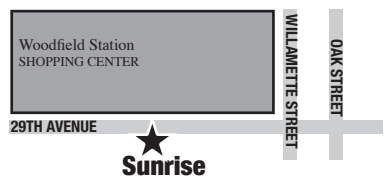


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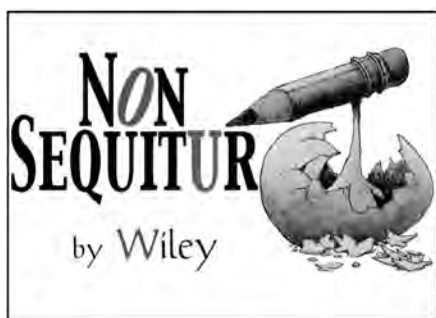
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letters

SHARE THE TRAILS

In response to the July 9 letter (“Damned Cheapskate Cyclists!”) written by Edgar Darwin:

I am more than sympathetic to the majority of complaints regarding cyclists’ bad behavior. I have been a road cyclist for almost 50 years, and I share the trails with respect for others. Yet I do not use a bell, and it has nothing to do with money. My experience is that bells elicit a more startled reaction than saying “on your left,” or just slowing down and giving pedestrians space.

As a pedestrian, hearing a bell makes me nervous, since I have no idea from which direction the rider is coming from. Just having that type of warning doesn’t help me decide how to react. I’d rather someone just slow down and go by quietly.

There is another side to this, though. Quite frequently I see groups or couples taking up the most of, or even the entirety of the trail. I’ve seen kids not being supervised running unfettered, and unleashed dogs. These trails are public space and they are designed to be shared equally.

How about we cyclists, runners and pedestrians — all practice respect and courtesy for each other because we are all in this together? Blaming the cyclist is getting old. Maybe we can all take responsibility for our trail behaviors and we’ll all be happier and safer.

Neil S. Burton
Eugene

CHANGING LANES

Lane County is named after Joseph Lane, a pro-slavery territorial governor of Oregon who ran as the 1860 vice presidential candidate on the pro-slavery southern Democratic ticket. He was a fierce opponent of Abraham Lincoln. Why honor such a man?

It would be possible to retain the name “Lane” by honoring his grandson, Dr. Harry Lane, a physician who was elected to the U.S. Senate from Oregon in 1912. Harry Lane was a strong supporter of women’s suffrage and public ownership of utilities. He challenged southern senators’ racism on the floor of the Senate and spoke out about the violence and injustices perpetrated by white people against Native Americans.

This approach of retaining the name but changing the namesake has a precedent. In 1852 the Oregon Territory included what later became Washington state. The Oregon Territorial Legislature created a new county, the future location of Seattle, and named it King County to honor Rufus Vane King. Rufus Vane King was another proslavery Democrat who had served briefly as vice president and had recently died in office. In 1986 the namesake was changed to honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

Of course there are many alternative

names, any of which would be better than honoring the racist Joseph Lane.

By the way, in 1860 voters in the new state of Oregon gave the plurality of their votes to Abraham Lincoln, who edged out the Breckinridge and Lane ticket, which received only 34 percent of the vote.

Robert Liberty
Portland

LET’S CLEAN UP THE MESS

“Statues matter. People not so much.”

This seems to be the slogan being advanced by our current president. We think it is time for a new slogan. And in fact, it is also time for a new president.

The only thing this current president seems able to accomplish is to throw virtual rolls of paper towels at us. “Here, you can use these to clean up the mess I made of your country.”

Deborah McDaniel
Ronald Blanton
Eugene

BRACE YOURSELVES, EUGENE

It’s time for a reality check and the unspoken truth. In two months our city will experience the arrival of an army of COVID-19 spreaders. Approximately 24,000 American and foreign students will invade our community. There can be zero doubt that hundreds will be infected with the virus. There can also be zero doubt that many will party, party, party with some having the attitude “the virus can’t kill me, it’s like the flu.” They will be among us. Lane County will experience a surge in COVID cases.

America was recently shocked to learn that in Alabama the “Me-Me Generation” were having COVID parties that involved paying a cover charge to attend and whoever first came down with the disease won all the money. Don’t fool yourself, this could also happen with the Me-Me’s soon to arrive here. The UO has a national reputation for being a party school filled with anti-authority and devil-be-damned students.

We cannot trust the University of Oregon to safeguard the community; it is only interested in making money by way of tuition, fees and dorm rent. How else can it afford to pay the exorbitant salaries its faculty and administrators earn? The hybrid methodologies it’s employing as a big business to keep jobs and avoid salary cuts or layoffs is really just an experiment, and if it goes awry guess who suffers? We do.

Do you honestly think that living in dorms and attending traditional classrooms won’t result in students getting infected and spreading it off-campus?

James Houston
Eugene

NO DEALS ON AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAYING

SB 1602, the legislative deal brokered by some environmental groups and timber industry representatives, falls well short of actually protecting residents and the environment. Longtime anti-pesticide activist/leader Carol Van Strum decries this so-called “compromise.”

She says SB 1602 “simply dresses up the status quo in new clothes, it’s a giant pacifier to the public.” She asserts that none of the signatories to the memorandum of understanding represent the many residents that have been directly impacted by timber industry practices. VanStrum maintains that the timber industry, backed by the state, has denied affected citizens their voice, but for environmental groups to sign our rights away without our consent is an “unconscionable betrayal.”

Freed from Aerial Herbicide Alliance demands a ban on all aerial herbicide spraying on Lane County’s forests. We reject a compromise regarding this archaic and dangerous activity. We will continue to stand up strongly and oppose the continuing assault on our planet and all life. It is unacceptable to sacrifice the health and safety of residents to maximize profits. The most important task before us is stopping the physical destruction of the planet. We are morally obligated to do so.

Eron King
Blachly

A WORLD WITHOUT JOY

As we continue reading how the present five-month-old pandemic has affected our downtowns, our malls, our delicate restaurant industry, schools, courts, hospitals, music industry, sports industry, unemployment rates and homelessness, we take it in with just a few blinks.

As human beings, our survival mode is naturally heroic — like losing a limb or staring at one’s own open wound. It is a unique state of shock that allows us to run and continue to breathe under adversity. It seems like only yesterday we enjoyed so-called normal life.

Today we reference those experiences like phantom appendages. But they are gone. For now, sports fans who lived minute to minute with endless games and scores and stats have had it cut off. Before the pandemic, there would have been significant outcry at the loss of any these cultural necessities. But now, empty facilities populate huge parts of our cities with no pulse.

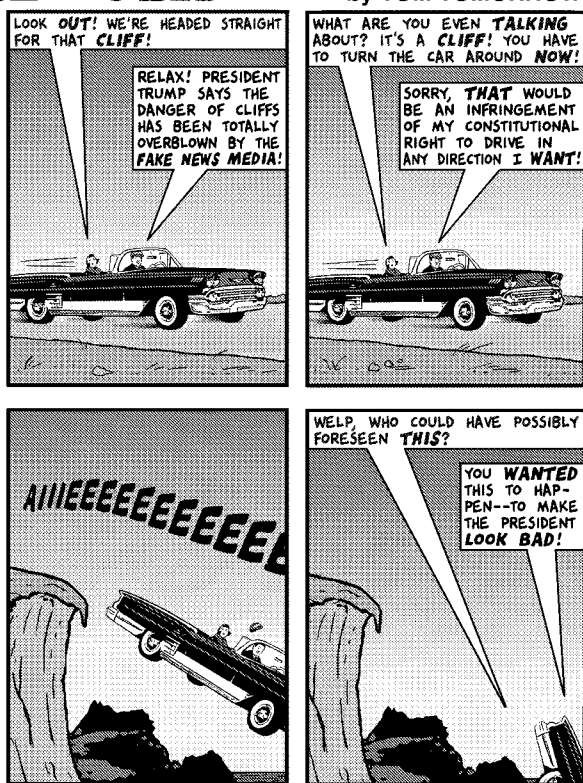
Movie theaters and stages are now vacant of emotion and wonder. Yet we still find ways to feel those sensations while the life we lived is getting further away in our collective rear view mirrors. As we approach 2021, the world will evolve quickly into new cultural paradigms,

THIS MODERN WORLD

AMERICA 2020

ANOTHER IN
AN OCCASIONAL
SERIES OF
PARABLES
INVOLVING
CLIFFS

by TOM TOMORROW



paradigms that will exclude so many of the joyous interactions we had with each other. Perhaps technology will fill the voids, perhaps our facile children will adapt to our post-pandemic societies. I feel we are in shock only to realize the significance of these losses after we have healed.

Frank Visconti
Eugene

I'M A FREE MAN!

I've had it! Enough with the government telling me what I can do! "Wear a mask!" "Socialistic distancing!"

And the highways are the worst! "Drive on the right side of the road!" they say. This is a free country! I have a right to drive on the left side of the road if I want, not that I'd ever do anything on the left!

And don't get me started on red lights! Who needs such government interference in the way I drive?!

What's next?! A ban on exclamation points?!!

David Stone
Eugene

GOP IS BLOCKING ELECTION SECURITY

In 2016, Russian hackers probed voting databases and systems in all 50 states in what the Department of Homeland Security and FBI believe was simply research for the 2020 election. Those Russian hackers have only become more capable in the past four years. Yet the Republican Congressional leadership continues to block every piece of proposed legislation to fund voting systems with paper trails, audits, and upgrades that would protect vulnerable voter registration databases from cyber attack. Why?

COVID-19 has made voting in person a danger to every voter's health. The HEROES Act, passed by the House, contains funding and provisions to make voting safer for everyone, including increased voting by mail. Yet the HEROES Act has been blocked in the Senate and vote-by-mail is continuously attacked by Trump and his GOP. Why?

Apparently Republicans are afraid of free and fair elections. And time is running out for Congress to protect voters' rights in 2020. To save the coming election, the Senate must act now to pass the HEROES Act and election-security legislation.

Beverly Sherrill
Florence

NO, YOU CAN'T KEEP THAT BOOK FOREVER

To my fellow patrons of the Eugene Public Library: Isn't it great that we get to check things out of the library again!

However, there won't be anything to check out if no one returns things.

If you are finished with something you checked out of the library, please don't wait until Sept. 14 to return it. Just take it to the drive-up book return at the Downtown Library, Monday through-Saturday 7 am to 5 pm in the alley between 11th and 10th avenues next to the Kiva parking lot.

Since it opens as soon as you hold up your book, you don't need to touch anything, so it is very safe. You cannot return items to the branch libraries, but I'm sure you'll be going downtown before Sept. 14.

Sharon Blick
Eugene

COVID-19 and Long-Term Care of Oregonians

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS AND
EMPLOYEES NEED SUPPORT

Our vulnerable citizens residing in long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, often physically and/or mentally disabled, are in dire need of our support and help. In this time of isolation and loneliness, they are suffering. State and local officials and state ombudsman volunteers have limited access to residents and can no longer monitor what is going on behind closed doors.

People are dying. Oregon state statistics show that 43 percent of deaths from COVID-19 occur in long-term facilities. However, statistics cannot show how many have died from neglect due to isolation and poorly trained staff, commonly paired with understaffing.

Residents often do not get basic care, like bathing or oral hygiene. It has been reported that some residents have not been bathed since restrictions began, more than three months ago. Some, who cannot move by themselves, are left in bed to develop bedsores and other skin problems.

Those who try to get out of bed without help often fall because the staffing is inadequate, and they can no longer wait to get their needs met. Imagine falling, possibly causing great bodily harm or death, because you need the bathroom, and no one answers your call. Imagine lying in pain on the floor until someone comes. It is happening all over the state and nation.

Community members are left to shelter in their room, and in doing so, cannot get the exercise or companionship that they typically have and still need. The longer these basic needs are unmet, memory issues increase and health declines, especially with the most marginalized and disempowered residents. Without social interaction, many will slowly decline in health and some will prematurely die.

It is our responsibility as concerned citizens to ensure that the Oregon Legislature places more control over the number and quality of care-staff, so there is at least adequate, preferably good, quality care.

When underpaid, under-trained and overworked staff fail to support these residents, our entire society loses. Our society is only as good as the care we give to the most vulnerable among us. We are showing that we care about our vulnerable citizens by the responses we are making toward societal injustices. This is one more injustice to change.

Proper COVID-19 testing and proper preventative measures need to be enforced to make sure everybody is safe. We need to contact our legislators to ensure they know we are watching how they respond to the crisis facing our vulnerable citizens. Most long-term care facilities are run by large multi-state companies who are very often more concerned about profit than the welfare of residents and staff.

Community advocates need to ensure that all types of facilities are held fully accountable for their actions and/or inactions during this COVID-19 emergency health situation — with no exceptions. All workers and residents need full support from both federal and state with testing and PPE supplies.

All endangered residents deserve protection. All endangered residents deserve your caring and actions on their behalf. Please advocate for them with your state and federal officials. Write or call your state representatives and senators. Demand actions that protect some of the most vulnerable people in our society.


Lee Bliven writes on behalf of CareWorks of Lane County and as a concerned husband and family caregiver. He is a retired Oregon state long-term care ombudsman volunteer, caregiver for an ex-resident of long-term/memory care and treasurer of CareWorks of Lane County within the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network (ESSN). To contact: careworks.of.lane.county.news@gmail.com


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


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Photos Courtesy of Elliott Cook

Eugene's Godmother of Anti-Racism

THE FOUNDER OF THE RACISM FREE ZONE CALLED OUT RACISM IN EUGENE AND FOUGHT AGAINST IT WITH COMPASSION; SHE LEFT THE TOWN A MORE INCLUSIVE PLACE

By Jade Yamazaki Stewart

Elliott Cook moved to Eugene in the early '80s with his brother, Lennard Cook, and his mother, Bahati Ansari.

At Thomas Jefferson Middle School, where he was a sixth-grader, Cook was always in trouble. White kids would say racist things to him, and he'd get into fights in the locker rooms. He was always in the principal's office. His mother told him he had to stop fighting, even though she understood his struggle being a Black boy.

One day, Cook walked into a classroom and scanned the walls. They were covered with artwork by students.

His eyes stopped on one piece: a rendering of a dead Black man, neck in a noose, hanging from a tree.

Cook ripped it off the wall and brought it to his teacher. "What is this?" he said.

"So?" the teacher replied and shrugged.

Cook took the paper and crammed it into the trash can.

The teacher told Cook to put the picture back on the wall. The classroom erupted in laughter.

Cook ran to the principal with the art, barging past the secretary and directly into his private office. The principal was on the phone. Cook pushed the paper toward him on his desk. The principal rolled his eyes, turned away from Cook and kept talking on the phone.

Cook rushed out, home to his mother where he explained to her what happened.

"That's enough," Ansari said.

That moment started Ansari's work of exposing racism and fighting against it in Eugene schools. Her friends and family say that Ansari, who died June 26 at 72 years old, helped Eugene become a more inclusive place by fearlessly discussing racism and how to fight it with anybody who'd speak with her.

Ansari was born outside Chicago in 1948. She was adopted into a farm family that Cook says used her for her labor. Ansari suffered during her childhood, and never told her sons about it in detail.

But she made things work. After Ansari had her first son in 1969, and Cook in 1972, Ansari got a degree at Chicago's Kennedy-King College, where she studied art and graphic design.



Ansari later went on to receive her bachelor's and master's degrees from Sojourner-Douglass College in Baltimore, Maryland, after her time in Eugene.

Cook has a memory from his early childhood of sitting in a trash can in a classroom where his mother was taking classes. Ansari had to bring Cook with her to her art class because she didn't have anybody to take care of him. There was nowhere for him to sit and he was running around, so they put him in the trash can next to his mother. Cook and his Ansari later joked that he was a "trash can kid."

After Ansari graduated college in Chicago, she moved to Eugene with the kids because she wanted them to be free from the violence of the big city, Cook says. But what awaited them in Eugene was more racism than they'd ever experienced. Chicago's population is about a third black, while Eugene's is less than two percent black.

After Cook's experience with the drawing of the hanged black man, Ansari pulled both her kids out of school. Misa Joo, a friend of Ansari's and a 4J school teacher, homeschooled the kids. Cook says the school district threatened to put Ansari in jail for not enrolling her children. But instead of putting her kids back in, she got to work.

Ansari talked to civil rights activists, lawyers and reporters in Portland and California to get publicity and support for her cause, all while awaiting action from the school district.

Joo says that while Ansari dealt with this, she also hosted Rosa Parks, who came to Eugene while working on Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign. While in a hotel room telling Parks about her sons' situation, Ansari broke down crying. Parks offered her support.

The next day, Ansari got a call from the principal of Cook's middle school, telling her to come in for a meeting. She was nervous, worried that she'd be put in jail and her sons would be taken away.

So Parks gave Ansari protection. Three members of the Fruit of Islam who were Parks' personal body guards accompanied Ansari to the meeting. The three tall Black men, members of the paramilitary branch of the Nation of Islam, walked with Ansari into the meeting, carrying black briefcases, wearing three-piece-suits and dark sunglasses. One of the men spoke in support of Ansari.

After the speech, the principal, who Joo says was clearly intimidated, said "What would you like us to do?"

Ansari listed her demands for training, education and conversations with staff and students to combat racism. These demands, which the principal and the 4J superintendent were open to, turned into the project of creating the first Racism Free Zones, at Thomas Jefferson Middle School (later Jefferson middle and now Arts and Technology Academy) and Spencer Butte Middle School.

The Racism Free Zone, Ansari's concept, was an idea that spread across the country. According to Guadalupe Quinn, a Mexican American woman who helped Ansari with her work, the zone included anti-racist trainings, conversations and education about racism and the Black American experience for everybody involved.

"The Racism Free Zone created the opportunity for the students, the teachers, the parents and even the district to become aware of the value of teaching history, of talking about the history and the struggles of Black people in this country," Quinn says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Her friends and family say that Ansari helped Eugene become a more inclusive place by fearlessly discussing racism and how to fight it with anybody who'd speak with her.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Quinn describes a workshop Ansari led with some white 4J teachers in the late '80s.

Ansari strode into the room, wearing colorful, loose African clothes and a turban. She had strands of beads hanging from her neck.

Ansari asked them "What did you notice about me when I walked in?"

The teachers said they noticed her colorful dress, her turban, her long manicured fingernails, her jewelry.

"Did nobody notice that I'm a Black woman?" Ansari said.

Quinn says Ansari urged everybody to acknowledge race, to acknowledge racism, to not shy away from difficult conversations.

"I think it made people very uncomfortable," Quinn says. "But what I loved and respected about Bahati is that she didn't let people dilute it. This was about racism."

After the initial trainings Ansari conducted to create a Racism Free Zone, she didn't let people off the hook, Cook says. She'd ask for more trainings, reports and calls with her. Because of Ansari's persistence, Quinn says the Racism Free Zones became much less racist, more inclusive places.

While Ansari was a mother and activist, she was also an outstanding educator, Eugene City Councilor Greg Evans says. Ansari taught a Black history and identity class for students at Rites of Passage at Lane Community College, a program designed to help people of color that Evans founded in 1996. She connected so well with students, he says, that in one instance, donors gave the program money after observing her class.

Evans, who is Black, says she helped him learn how to survive and thrive in a community with very few Black people, and credits her with much of his success. Evans says she had a persistent style of activism that young protesters in the Black Lives Matter movement can learn from.

"She always had a way of telling people this is not a sprint; this is a marathon. You have to be there not just during the peaks, but you also have to be vigilant during the valleys," he says. "She was one of those people that wouldn't let you give up."

While Ansari passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she moved in 2007 to be with her husband's family, Evans and Cook say her mark on Eugene remains.

"To anybody who knows her, I'm telling them she is not gone," Cook says. "She has just left the room. Because everything she's given will continue to grow." ■

Donations and memories can be sent to Elliott Cook at 3131 Leo Rd SW #C, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87105.

news

Taking Back the Streets

EUGENE IS OPENING SOME STREETS TO ENCOURAGE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING TRAFFIC

By Henry Houston

On any given neighborhood street these days, it's likely you'll find someone running, walking or riding a bike in the middle of the road. Pedestrians and bicyclists have taken over the asphalt since social

distancing measures are asking people to maintain a six-foot distance between one another, and sidewalks just don't offer that sort of luxury.

But a new program the city of Eugene is about to launch could officially allow pedestrians to take back the streets as a way to encourage more space for active lifestyles during COVID-19, as well as chip away at the city's greenhouse gas emissions and create a safe space for people to use healthier transportation methods.

Cities opening streets for pedestrians isn't a new idea, and Eugene is hardly the first to explore it. More than 200 U.S. cities are experimenting with the idea since the pandemic forced social distancing measures, according to data from the website PedBikeInfo.

Eugene residents have been pushing the city to explore the idea, and on June 4, the city announced that it would launch an Open Streets program.

Cas Casados, the city's transportation programs coordinator, says the city of Eugene was observing how other cities were executing the program before jumping in.

"In other cities, it has been done rather quickly, and those cities have had a lot of learning," she says. "The benefit of doing this later is that we're able to learn from those cities."

Casados says that the Active Bethel Citizens neighborhood group recently voted to support a set of open streets in their neighborhood, making it the first neighborhood to participate in the program. The streets will open mid-July and will have several connected streets in south Bethel to create a safer space for residents to walk and bike to nearby parks, a nearby grocery store, a restaurant, Family Fun Center and summer lunch sites.

She adds that more sites will launch on a rolling basis throughout the summer in other city neighborhoods.

The program is an idea similar to the annual Sunday Streets, where motor traffic is shut off from downtown, but don't confuse the two as the same thing.

A street categorized as an open street will have a barricade and sign that notifies drivers they're entering "open traffic," Casados says. Although pedestrians and human-powered vehicles will run the road, she adds that residents, emergency vehicles and essential vehicles like garbage trucks will still be able to access the street.

The program should run through mid-September but could be extended or expanded to other areas depending on reception.

Marc Schlossberg is a University of Oregon professor in the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management and co-director and co-founder of the Sustainable Cities Institute. He says the idea of open streets is restoring a public space that has been taken over for movement and storage of vehicles.

Since fewer people are driving during the pandemic, Schlossberg says it's an opportunity to have people change their habits and start walking and biking in the streets. He says

a "smart, sustainable city" is one that takes the habits from the past couple months during the pandemic and make them more possible in everyday, regular life.

Data from the city of Eugene shows that traffic volume around 6th and Jefferson before COVID-19 was at an average of 13,768 vehicles a day. When social distancing measures were implemented mid-March, traffic plummeted to 9,180. But traffic has been slowly rising again.

Although the city of Eugene has bike infrastructure and designated lanes for cyclists, a 2019 study published in the *Accident Analysis and Prevention* journal suggests a painted stripe isn't enough.

The study was conducted in Melbourne, Australia, but the research shows one in 17 passing motorists came within 3.2 feet of a cyclist.

As more people are buying bicycles as a way to exercise because gyms are either closed or limited in services, Casados says the Open Streets program is a safe space for people new to biking to bike to travel to restaurants, businesses and grocery stores.

"A lot of people are trying out biking right now. We want to show people where they can go on the bikes. Pick up, take out, by bike or on foot," she says. "This program would help us show people to do that and a safer space to learn."

Dr. Michael Ryan of the World Health Organization said at a May 14 press conference that COVID-19 may never disappear and could be another epidemic like HIV/AIDs. If that's the case, social distancing measures could change how cities function. And that means mass transit options like buses could be depended upon less, Schlossberg says.

Schlossberg says it's time to reconsider transit options like bicycling to avoid having more cars on the road.

"Unless we want more car trips to happen, we need to find transit-complementary ways of moving," he says. "You're not going to substitute a transit trip with a walk trip. If anything, you're going to substitute with a car trip or a bike trip. If we're serious about our climate and public health, we want it to be a bike trip."

The Open Streets program is a way to address the city's Climate Action Plan, as well. According to the city's greenhouse gas emission inventory from 2017, transportation is responsible for the most emissions: 53 percent comes from passenger and freight transportation.

Schlossberg says a wider implementation of an Open Streets program that allows for increased healthier modes of transportation, while cutting the number of private vehicles, is the only way for the city to cut its greenhouse gas emissions. Having more electric cars instead of fossil fuel-powered vehicles isn't enough, he adds. People have to walk, bike and use mass transit more.

And if the Open Streets program catches on, it's a way to make public spaces more inclusive for everyone and reclaim space that vehicles have captured.

"We have this vast public space in front of where everyone lives," he says. "To actually open up that space that people can use it on foot, on bike, on skateboard, pogo stick or whatever? All of a sudden there's opportunities to really enhance the public space for everyone in our community." ■

Visit eugene-or.gov/486/Transportation for updates.



Signed, Sealed and Delivered

EUGENE'S ARCIMOTO IS CRUISING ALONG ON WALL STREET AND IN THE DELIVERY MARKET

By Henry Houston

From Wall Street to the delivery world, Arcimoto is seeing success during the sluggish COVID-19 economy. And CEO and founder Mark Frohnmayer has his sights on a federal loan program that helped catapult Tesla into its out-of-this world popularity.

The COVID-19 economy at first hit Arcimoto hard. When the virus came to the U.S., the company announced March 19 that it would suspend production of its Fun Utility Vehicle (FUV), the company's everyday-use three-wheel vehicle. But the company then received a PPP loan, which Frohnmayer says helped the company bring back many of its laid-off production staff. The company's current labor force is almost as strong as it was pre-COVID, he adds.

Although the pandemic has forced many businesses and industries to rethink their place in a socially distanced world, one area that has prospered is delivery services. And for Arcimoto's Deliverator, which had its first pilot vehicle produced mid-March, now is the time to try it out in the real world.

"Last mile delivery just went to the moon," he says. "Delivery has gone from being a convenience to being actually an essential part of health and safety for a lot of people."

The three-wheel vehicle, as its name says, is used for last-mile delivery — the final stretch that links business or restaurant to consumer. Although it's small (three vehicles can fit in a parking space), it can travel up to 75 miles per hour and has a storage space of 20-plus cubic feet, according to Arcimoto's webpage on the vehicle.

On June 22, the company announced that the Deliverator would hit the streets of Los Angeles as part of a pilot program with HyreCar — an on-demand car rental service for gig workers of Uber, Lyft or grocery delivery apps.

In total, Frohnmayer says Arcimoto has one Deliverator in Eugene, two in Los Angeles, one in Florida and two more planned for somewhere on the West Coast.

"As we refine the product for production, which we're aiming for the end of this year, we have a lot of feedback from real delivery drivers doing real deliveries of different kinds of things," he says.

Arcimoto's introduction of the Deliverator, as well as the Rapid Responder, changed the perception on Wall Street that the company was just about the Fun Utility Vehicle, Frohnmayer says. And investors are growing more aware that electric vehicles are the future of transportation, which is the reason why companies like Tesla and Workhorse have had "hockey stick" growth during the pandemic, he adds.

But another element in Arcimoto's rising stock-market success comes from millennials trading on an investing app called Robinhood. He says so-called "retail investors" — nonprofessional individuals trading stocks at small amounts — have had an impact on the company's stock price.

Data from RobinTracker, a website that tracks how many Robinhood users buy a particular stock, shows a recent upward trend in the number of users buying Arcimoto. On July 14, according to the website, 13,840 Robinhood users were holding Arcimoto shares, a steep increase from a month ago when the number was 4,789.

Frohnmayer says the company's focus right now is catching up with FUV orders, getting pilot programs started and planning how to do higher scale production in 2021.

The company has had three stock offerings in the past month and a half, which have raised \$26.5 million. It's a step toward securing a large federal loan of the kind that helped set Tesla on its skyrocket trajectory. Frohnmayer says the company is planning to apply for the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan, which in 2010 awarded Tesla with \$465 million.

"We're now approaching the point where we'd be an ideal candidate for that program," Frohnmayer says. ■

Henry Houston is a millennial who bought shares of Arcimoto on the Robinhood app back in January.



slant

• This week we present to you another "Local and Vocal" roundup of local voices on the issues that affect people locally and globally. Eugene Weekly has had a longstanding policy of giving space first to less-heard voices — people of color, women, LGBTQ — but we

can do better at providing a space for diverse community voices in our pages. Thinking about writing something? Send us a note at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. This week we welcome a new column, "Black Girl From Eugene" by Ayisha Elliott. Please read, ponder and join the conversation. Letters to the editor are also always welcome — and one of the most popular parts of the paper. Send them to Letters@EugeneWeekly.com.

• We raise our hands in collective support of **keeping our local schools closed this fall**, relying on distance learning. Los Angeles and San Diego, two of the largest districts in the country, just made that decision in spite of the miserable "orders" from President Donald Trump, who has absolutely no control over our public schools in America. District 4J is grappling with that decision and is expected to announce it in August. We should remember that 100 teachers died in New York City as the virus was ravaging that city.

• **Wednesday, July 8, may be known as the day the dominoes fell on college sports in the U.S.**, with the Ivy League leading the way. That was the day the venerable eight-school league decided to postpone its fall sports programs — football, field hockey, soccer, cross country and volleyball — until 2021 due to the rampant spread of COVID-19. Dominoes have been falling fast and furious since. Stanford and Boise State have eliminated Olympic sports, off-season conditioning programs have been paused at several schools because of positive tests and non-conference football games have been slashed from schedules. After a devastating spring, what's next for the Power Five conferences and their cash cow empires, leading off with football? Larry Scott, the Pac-12 commissioner who last week revealed that he had tested positive for COVID-19, noted in an interview with CBS Sports that "unless we see a change in the trajectory of the spread of the virus and its impact pretty quickly, I think the situation's a lot more perilous than it was a few weeks ago." The seagulls might have Autzen Stadium all to themselves this fall.

• All environmentalists should be concerned that the **Trumpers have taken the first steps to shut down NEPA**, the National Environmental Protection Act enacted in 1970 for the conservation of critical environmental resources. An attorney in the EPA regional office in Seattle tells us this will be a relatively gradual process, hopefully halted in November. Seems unlikely that President Trump knows or cares at all about NEPA, but he continues to believe he has unlimited executive power. What's up next? The Constitution?

• **Need a pick-me-up?** Check out Sarah Cooper on YouTube or on TikTok, where she got her start. Her imitations of Donald Trump are the best things the president has going. Also listen to Gerry Brooks, a school principal from Lexington, Kentucky, who has a "phone conversation" with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos on YouTube and Facebook. It helps to have a little fun.

• **The Trump administration spread its tentacles out to Portland** when it sent Homeland Security law enforcement out to Portland last week, making Oregon's largest city look like a war zone. On Saturday, July 11, the federal agents fired a crowd dispersal bullet at a protester's face; he is still in the hospital. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley demanded answers from AG William Barr and Homeland Security Acting Security Chad Wolf. There is now no question whether the Trump administration cares about the U.S. Constitution.

• **Flyfishers call it the "rubber hatch,"** not caddisflies or Mayflies, but floaties, inner tubes, rafts and kayaks drifting down the local waterways. Numbers of locals getting out have skyrocketed, and that's a good thing — social distancing and lots of vitamin D. The scene at the Alton Baker Canoe Canal is especially fun with novice paddlers getting their feet wet, so to speak, on a local, safe, beautiful canal. There's a growing diverse community just across the street from Autzen Stadium. The launch site should be improved, making this urban waterway even more accessible. Ideas?

Black Girl From Eugene

Assimilation is not a gift BY AYISHA ELLIOTT

I was born in Eugene. A Black baby of two revolutionary Black parents and the fifth child of our crew.

I grew up the only Black girl in every aspect of my education. I met other girls who were bi-racial Black and white as I got older. We had different permission from our parents. We understood things differently. When you're young the narrative of your parents is what drives your foundational decisions.

We foundationally were different. As I grew older the definitions of blackness outside of my household became increasingly more relevant. My ideas around blackness didn't reflect the history my parents taught me. The blackness that was acceptable didn't match the blackness I was born into.

Outside of my home, blackness was aggressive and over sexualized; it was strength throughout inflicted oppression, athletically directed, lacking intellect and something to maintain in support of whiteness without reproach. I learned how to fit in quickly. Always knowing, quietly, that I was smarter than the rest of them. I learned how to switch my language, my style and my approach.

However, racism is tricky when fed to children of color

as repose, discipline and behavior modification. Racism is tricky when fed to children as safety measures and deemed necessary for their survival. With this onslaught of colonization and anti-blackness regiment, how do Black children survive and ever see and love their true selves?

The narrative our ancestors have given our great grandmothers, our grandmothers and our mothers is a playbook to the magic that lies within our melanin. It can shield our souls from the lies we are taught to take in. Our connection to a higher source of truth through our ancestry line is how we process it. That is insider information.

Some of us survive, some of us do not. I don't mean in a physical way, although that can be justly argued. I'm speaking on a conscious level – conscious level of truth about our very soul and placement in this world. Insisting that our truth, or powerful existence, our undeniable value is not only subjective, but objectively real, factual.

As I've grown, and untangled white conditioning to allow what my parents instilled to shine through, I'm left with a deep understanding of whiteness. I know before they do what racist proposition I'll be invited to critique

or participate in. I can intuitively see where the line is for them on the truth around racism, and to intentionally avoid that space to appease the predictable fragility that follows.

I know how to recognize performative support, and sincere ignorance. Am I scarred? Or do I carry a secret weapon? I know them better than they will ever know me.

I can act as "properly" as they require for their own comfort. I speak their language, often more eloquently than they do. Is that a gift? That is assimilation.

Assimilation is not a gift.

That dance is not a gift. The gift after all of these years of healing the white conditioning is to have grown to a space of unapologetically Black. I survived. I do not wrestle with what is right and what is white. I no longer wrestle with permission to wear my hair free, to allow my body to be big, to laugh loud when joy sweeps over me.

I survived. Now it is my turn to thrive. ■

Ayisha Elliott's podcast Black Girl From Eugene is raw and uncensored monologues and conversations about living while Black in the PNW. Listen locally at 11 am Sundays on FB Live; simulcast on KEPW 97.3 FM. Audio found on all major podcasting platforms.

Racialized Inequality

Social justice is the vaccine we need for Oregon's food system

BY JOAN GROSS AND EMILY YATES-DOERR

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the racialized inequality that permeates Oregon's food system.

The conditions of slavery and genocide upon which the U.S. was founded have been neither reconciled nor repaired, leaving our state with a food system that increases vulnerability to the spread of viruses like COVID-19.

As professors in Oregon State University's Food in Culture and Social Justice program we have spent decades studying how social inequities are reproduced through every stage of the food system. The pandemic is exposing the brutal effects of these inequities. Now, more than ever, we must seek treatments that emphasize systemic change and social justice.

Let's begin with the production of food on Oregon farms, on lands stolen from Native Americans. The vast majority of farmland in our country is owned by white men, and the people who plant, care for and harvest the food are mostly people of color, many of whom were forced to leave their own land in other countries due to political situations beyond their control. Working conditions in the fields often lack sufficient handwashing stations and underpaid migrant workers are housed in substandard structures where social distancing is impossible.

On some farms in the U.S., every single farmworker has tested positive for COVID-19 and Oregon farms could easily be next.

Moving on to food processing, we find that many of the hotspots of COVID-19 outbreaks occur in factories where food is processed. With people working shoulder to shoul-

der to increase efficiency, the virus can spread quickly.

The next stage of food processing occurs in restaurants or institutional cafeterias, where cooks, servers and dishwashers prepare, deliver and clean up after meals for the enjoyment of others. The work is precarious and usually without health care benefits, so workers are compelled to come to work, even when sick. Closing these businesses may protect potential customers, but it puts huge numbers of already vulnerable people out of work. Additionally, farmers who produce for that supply chain have no market and are left to destroy edible food – all while people go hungry.

This brings us to the final phase of the food system, when food enters people's mouths.

Food workers are twice as likely to be food insecure as others, but during the pandemic, they find themselves in good company given the high rates of current unemployment. U.S. citizens can apply for SNAP benefits, but many food workers are not citizens. They are not banned from accessing food at pantries and free meal sites, but many fear that if they do make use of them they will be arrested and separated from their families.

Today, the fact that COVID-19 is widespread in penitentiaries and deportation stations adds to their fear.

Oregon relies on the cheap labor of Latin American migrant workers to grow and process food, and these farms and factories have become centers of infection in our state. Only 13 percent of the state identifies as Hispanic, but 36.6 percent of identified COVID-19 infections have occurred within this population.

In light of the recent outbreak at Pacific Seafood, where more than 181 employees tested positive for the virus, news

headlines reported that "language barriers" were delaying the ability to track and trace people with COVID-19, with many of the impacted workers speaking Latin American Indigenous languages.

These language barriers must be understood within broader violations of human rights exemplified by an abusive immigration system that too quickly imprisons and deports – even when people have the legal right to stay. Testing and tracing will not be effective unless there are labor protections in place that make it safe for all people who worry they are sick to come forward.

It's tragic, not to mention dangerous, that agricultural workers and food processors are considered essential, and yet they are unprotected.

As the world clamors for COVID-19 magic bullets – vaccines, antibodies, llamas, medications, face shields – the one thing that will make a significant and lasting difference is a large injection of social justice.

We must work to increase land sovereignty among marginalized communities, support universal health care and guaranteed wages, and put an end to racist police brutality and extortionist farmworker immigration policies. A vaccine for COVID-19 may never eliminate coronavirus, but these structural changes are within our reach. They are fundamental to creating an equitable food system that feeds us all. ■

Joan Gross, Ph.D., and Emily Yates-Doerr, Ph.D., are professors in Oregon State University's Food in Culture and Social Justice program, which educates students about the food system and the complexities of foodways around the world. The program encourages students to actively strive to create a more equitable and environmentally sustainable food system, and many of our graduates are currently involved in that work.

A Dream Deferred No Longer

The coronavirus is not the only out-of-control pandemic BY JOE BERNEY

Seventy years ago, the American poet Langston Hughes wrote about Black lives and Black discontent in Harlem:

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore –

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over –

Like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

Like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

In the decades since, we've witnessed multiple uprisings within communities of color, not only because of dreams deferred, but also because of continued inequities and violent acts of injustice.

Millions of people are now engaging in multi-racial, multi-generational, non-violent protests because they want the dream deferred no longer. Even during this pandemic, the risk assumed by many of those protesting feels less than the risk of maintaining systemic inequities as they now exist, and arguably it's the one of the most patriotic things we can do to make things better.

The coronavirus has killed more than 130,000 Americans in a few short months, yet poverty alone is responsible for over 300,000 deaths annually in this country, a travesty in its own right.

At the same time, ironically, we all yearn for normalcy, to get back to work, to get our kids back to school. The mixed messages, lack of a coordinated federal response,

much less leadership, on this pandemic has been stultifying. The buck stops at the lowest level of government, exactly the wrong place in a public health crisis.

Nonetheless, one month ago Lane County, per the governor's instructions, began Phase 2 of re-opening. Though we're lucky to have remained relatively untouched by the virus itself, that may be changing. We remain painfully aware that testing is insufficient, that the test-based isolate/contact/trace infrastructure is inadequate, and that there is likely no effective vaccine that will be available this calendar year despite political rhetoric to the contrary.

But let the protests continue, keep them safe, peaceful and a demonstration in how to self-police. Let us work for real change in our economic system, bringing back the middle class and achieving true full employment. Let's redefine a good job to include living wages and upward mobility. And let's change the measures of what a "healthy economy" and "success" look like.

Let us eliminate the notion that people exist to serve the economy and awaken to the fact that the economy exists to serve the needs of people – of all people, not just the small percentage the economy has been contrived to work very well for.

As we reform policing in this country, let us understand the context of modern law enforcement, which began after the Civil War as a mechanism to serve the power structure and control freed slaves.

As we hear our environment cry out its imbalance with ever-increasing extreme weather events and their impacts on life at all levels, let us understand our role and become better stewards of the Earth and its bounty.

The coronavirus is not the only out-of-control pandemic

at this time. War. Racism. Poverty. Hunger. Deteriorating public infrastructure. Lack of health and mental health care for all. All of these a human service peace economy could help heal.

The final chapters of my life are the first chapters of my life as an elected official, a particular sub-species of human for whom I have always had a degree of contempt. We must keep our elected officials accountable to all the people, not just the few who wield money and power. I now see the urgency of this first-hand.

I am not a fan of career politicians from either side of the aisle. Some calculate every move and every word with the intent of accruing more popularity to feed an insatiable greed for power and attention. And they often play us against each other for their own purposes at this critical crossroads in history when we need to build common ground, not destroy it. A united front is necessary to combat the enemies of democracy: greed, fear, ignorance; distraction, confusion and illusion.

We are called upon to no longer be complacent, but to fulfill an American dream that is real, not just for some but for all. Hughes' foresight accurately predicted what happens when dreams are deferred. People explode. Add a worldwide pandemic to the equation and economies can unravel, democracies can die. We must work harder than ever to make good on the dreams and promises of our institutions and the democratic way of life.

We have no time to continue deferring the dream. Here and now we must acknowledge Hughes' insight, realize Martin Luther King's dream, demonstrate true patriotism and bring our world into balance. It might just be our best, and our last, chance. ■

Joe Berney is vice-chair of the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

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The Assault on St. John's Church

The June 1 attack on peaceful protesters sums up Trump's administration BY THOMAS COFFIN

Certain dates are never erased from memory. Dates such as July 4, 1776; Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001. Perhaps June 1, 2020, may be destined as another.

It was on this date that a peaceful assembly gathered in protest of the murder of George Floyd and numerous other African American victims of police brutality. The assembly was a time-honored tradition of people engaging in the practice of rights secured to them by our Constitution — rights to assemble, to speak, to minister, to pray, to heal.

It took place on the hallowed grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. The gathering included members and clergy from the church who were engaging in dialogue with the protesters, and providing respite, hospitality and comfort to all who were present. No laws were being broken.

Suddenly, without warning, the gathering was attacked by federal police in riot gear deploying tear gas, concussion grenades, rubber bullets and a low-flying military helicopter to stampede and scatter the people.

The sole reason for this unconscionable assault on citizens who were exercising their Constitutional rights was that Donald Trump had decided to pose in front of St. John's with a Bible in his hands for a photo-op.

There had been no advance notice to the pastor of the church nor any request from the White House for permission to co-opt this place of worship for Trump's use as a political prop. No lawful authority for this sudden, unprovoked and excessive misuse of force and power has been cited, because there is none.

As is usual with this administration, straight answers have been slow in forthcoming as the players scramble to coordinate their narrative. Reports are oozed from the mire that Attorney General William Barr ordered the police to clear the area upon learning of Trump's desire to occupy and use the church grounds.

The president, parroting the legendary Sergeant Schultz in Hogan's Heroes, "knows nothing" about it.

There is much to unpack from this outrage, which sums up this administration in so many ways.

First, the context of the peaceful gathering at St. John's is framed by the graphic and brutal killing of George Floyd at the hands of four members of the Minneapolis police department.

His death added yet another victim to the ever-growing list of African Americans who have died from excessive and lethal force applied by white police officers and vigilantes such as those who took the lives of Trayvon Martin and Ahmaud Arbery.

Violence against African Americans has long been entrenched in our culture. Jim Crow laws in the South and segregation in our institutions persisted for almost a century after the Civil War. The heroic efforts of Martin Luther King and other civil rights activists, many of whom were bombed, shot, attacked by police dogs and murdered in the process, focused attention on the grave injustices within our society and resulted in measures such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other remedial legislation.

But it is painfully obvious that our nation still has a long and arduous journey ahead to eradicate the cancer of racism and establish true equality among all people in the diverse population that defines the U.S.

When Barack Obama was elected as the first African American president in our history, one dared to hope that

a corner had been turned. But the embers of prejudice and racism are not extinguished easily amidst a heritage of white supremacy bias passed down and kept alive by generation after generation.

The 2016 election cycle put the country on the cusp of further progress. But into this delicate moment of history stepped Trump, whose campaign emphasized going backwards, not forward. His emphasis was on division, not unity. He promised to build walls and deliver massive deportations to keep out and rid the country of supposedly undesirable Hispanics whom he vilified.

His rhetoric fed and validated the prejudices of those who would become his base. MAGA was a not so subtle call for a return to nationalism, and nationalism is a synonym for less diversity and a more homogeneous culture. Unsurprisingly, he attracted adherents of white supremacy into the fold. The former Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, David Duke, endorsed him.

Once in office, Trump began dismantling programs implemented by his predecessor, which included federal oversight of police departments with a history of using excessive force against people of color.

Even more disturbing, he used his platform as president to message approval of police methods that crossed the boundary of what was lawful. He heaped praise on Rodrigo Duterte, a dictator who utilized police and vigilante death squads to murder suspected drug users and dealers in the Philippines; he encouraged a large gathering of police officers in Long Island to use excessive force in arresting suspects; he pardoned a notorious sheriff who had been convicted of contempt of a federal court order by continuing to violate the rights of Hispanics, and he pardoned a Navy platoon leader convicted by a military tribunal for his role in actions that involved the death of a prisoner of war.

None of this is lost on those who wear badges and wield the heavy responsibility of authority in their interactions with people of color. Police chiefs and commanding officers seeking to train and maintain discipline within the ranks find their efforts swept aside from above. It is the equivalent of the principal telling the students that they can just ignore their teachers.

The murder of George Floyd and the justified anger it generated cannot be understood in a vacuum. Our famously thin-skinned president views all protesters as thugs to be "dominated" by the brute force of military might. It is certain he has never entertained the thought that his own rhetoric and actions may well have played a significant part in contributing to the crisis enveloping the country over yet another death of an African American at the hands of the police. The tactics he has encouraged and approved from his presidential pulpit are tactics that are excessive, unconscionable. And unlawful.

In Barr, Trump has a like-minded attorney general in his approach to authoritarianism and empowerment of the police. In speeches to law enforcement, Barr has dismissed the concern about police brutality as being nothing more than a narrative from "an increasingly vocal minority that regularly attacks the police."

That statement itself explains why protests are necessary to awaken the conscience of America to the injustices still being perpetrated against African Americans. Marches and protests were an integral part of the civil rights movement and the changes that would not have occurred in their absence.

Such protests are vital to democracy. As the nation's

attorney general, Barr should be cognizant of his duty to defend the right of peaceful assembly, not disparaging of protests as disrespectful or "attacks" on police, or rabble to be dispersed by tear gas at the whim of a president inconvenienced by the presence of protesters.

It is not difficult to grasp and understand the frustration of vast numbers of people in the country who are witnessing the erosion of their rights and democracy itself. A bedrock foundation of the nation — the rule of law, which holds everyone, whether prince or pauper, to equal stature and accountability under the law — is being shredded before our eyes.

Trump, Barr and what passes today as the Department of Justice are engaged in applying a double standard in their treatment of the friends and allies of Donald Trump. The cases of Roger Stone and Michael Flynn bark loudly of arbitrary favoritism and flouting of the judicial system, as do the pardons or commutations of sentences of the likes of Michael Milken, Rod Blagojevich and David Safavian.

The law is not being applied equally, and the DOJ has forfeited much of its credibility under an administration that treats it as an arm of the White House, not an independent upholder of justice for the people it is sworn to serve. It is thus no mystery that people have lost confidence in our criminal justice system or have concluded the system is tilted in favor of white privilege.

Peering further into the June 1 debacle we find the invocation by the administration to use military power to suppress nationwide protests and label the streets of America as battlefields to be conquered. Unleashing the military might of the country's armed forces against its own people is the benchmark of every tyrannical government. It is the action of rulers who neither represent the people nor care about their welfare, and whose only interest is in maintaining the power of office.

Such misuse of the military would forever stain our democracy and imperil our liberty. We should recognize this call for military action for what it is — a test of the military by Trump. Will the armed forces obey a command to attack our own citizens, or will they remain loyal to their oath to uphold the Constitution?

It is encouraging to have heard the responses of retired Gen. James Mattis and other military leaders to this attempt to involve troops against the people. But the pressure to do so will in all probability intensify, and the future of our democracy is in the balance. We must hope the military stands fast in its resolve to protect the people and our heritage from someone who has no regard for either.

Finally, I arrive at the layer of the St. John's episode that implicates freedom of religion and the alliance of conservative Christians with Trump. In the assault on St. John's and his sequel performance at the Catholic shrine of John Paul II, the president evidenced both an appropriation of religion as a political prop and an intent to dominate religions and their sacred spaces for his own purposes.

His intrusions were clumsy, disrespectful, arrogant and even violent as well as uninvited at one of the venues. Christians should reflect on whether any alliance for transitory political favors is worth surrendering their core values, their integrity and being turned into props like upside down Bibles. ■

Thomas Coffin is a retired United States magistrate judge. He served 24 years in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, from 1992 to 2016.

Protect the People

Oregon Legislature's steps on improving policing BY SEN. JAMES MANNING AND REP. MARTY WILDE

Oregonians deserve peace officers who will serve and protect the public, not control the public.

During the first 2020 special session of the Oregon Legislature, we took important steps towards that goal by changing policies that shield and protect bad police officers who have tainted the badge through predatory and unprofessional conduct that all too often targeted and abused Black people and other communities of color.

We must improve peace officers' training, reduce excessive and unnecessary uses of force, and hold officers who willfully violate their oath of office accountable for their actions.

During the special session, we made progress in establishing a 21st-century policing philosophy. Now police cannot disperse CS gas (teargas) to break up peaceful protests except in response to riots, and then only after giving the crowd warnings.

Now we require public availability for records of police who have committed serious professional misconduct, and we require agencies hiring police to check those records. The law now requires police officers to report unprofessional

conduct by their peers.

Officers can no longer use chokeholds or other tactics that can easily result in death, except to protect their own lives. And we established a process so that police discipline will follow transparent guidelines, protecting both officers and the public.

American popular culture focuses on policing as catching criminals, not as protecting the public. While this makes for a good entertainment, it does not reflect the public's true priorities and realities.

As military veterans, we have experienced how challenging it was for our servicemen and women overseas to move from a mindset of "get the bad guys" to "protect the people" as the primary mission. We must acknowledge, too, that not every police applicant who seems qualified should become a peace officer; we must screen for candidates who want to serve and protect.

Looking to the future we have much work to do, because not every call to 911 requires police response. For example, a person experiencing an emotional or mental crisis would be better served by crisis intervention specialists like those of CAHOOTS as first responders. This will leave peace officers available to respond to calls they are trained for.

At the same time, officers should be competent in using de-escalation techniques and be able to recognize unconscious biases. We all have them, but we can overcome them.

Conversely, when an officer willfully violates the public trust or department policies, an independent civilian review and accountability system must ensure due process and transparency. Through these means, we endeavor to build trust and confidence between our peace officers and the communities they swore to protect and serve.

Hopefully, the policy changes we made during the first 2020 special session will empower professional peace officers. Maybe it will also encourage those who see the profession as "us against them" to change their perspective or choose another profession.

At the end of the day, we must provide our peace officers with the resources to be successful. And we must build community trust essential for peace and harmony. We are not there yet, but we are moving forward on the journey. Our work will continue in future legislative sessions. With your help, we will get there together. ■

Rep. Marty Wilde represents the Kalapuya District, which includes parts of Lane and Linn Counties. Sen. James Manning was a state corrections officer, and later a police officer, railroad special agent and private investigator prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army, from which he retired in 2007.

A Changing Restaurant Scene

Adapting and changing to save local dining

BY JEFFERY PASSEROTTI, WENDY WATSON AND KIYALLAH HEATHERSTONE

With the COVID-19 pandemic in full roar, we the small, independent restaurants, are facing an existential crisis.

Restaurants have always seemed a recession-proof business. Sure, the individual business could struggle and fail, but as a whole, restaurants thrived, grew and succeeded. People have to eat, and people like to drink, and people love to be social. Special occasions happen all the time; it is always someone's birthday, or anniversary or graduation. The other end of the spectrum is filled with food trucks, small take out joints and the entire fast food sector. The industry keeps chugging on.

Everyone reading this is aware the last 30 years have given rise to the internet along with mass and social media. This allowed the world to share knowledge, ideas and traditions in new and unique ways — a proverbial melting pot.

It has brought this country a bounty of culinary choices and delights, from celebrity chefs and the Food Network™ to more personal awakening of a world full of exotic spices, heirloom vegetables, boutique wines and artisanal spirits. It helped to drive small, independent restaurants to the forefront of dining in America. Our cities and towns are stocked with amazing chefs and stupendous waiters. Local farmers markets are filled with regional pride and global awareness. This makes a more diverse and interesting food scene than ever before.

Sure, the large chains (owned by large conglomerates and backed by deep pockets) are pushing the same mass-produced food that is cost-driven, heavily advertised and lacking in love. These "restaurants" food businesses have always been focused on putting profit first, but even they are trying to keep up with the trends from the little guys. This has been a very good couple of decades to be a foodie.

We (the little guys) are much better at poaching that duck egg, stirring the Manhattan or remembering your cat's name than we are at cash flow and P&L reports. We love the food, the drink and the community. If we understood money, we would be bankers. Our understanding of analyzing sales is usually along the lines of "more butts in seats = more money!"

Which brings us to the problem we are facing. We cannot put "more butts in seats." We don't even have as many seats as we did before.

Often smaller restaurants sell as much in an hour on the weekend as we do over an entire Tuesday. With social distancing, we have lost the busy Friday and Saturday nights. We have lost our bar seating, and our two-top tables. We have lost the ability to just add a seat to the end of a table, or to squeeze one more person in. A lot of us have lost 70 percent or more of our potential seats. There aren't enough seats in a socially distanced dining room.

What we do have is time. We have the earlier and later hours of the night, and slower days of the week. We can seat

more people on Tuesday or Wednesday or at 4:30 or at 9 pm than we do now. The dining culture evolved around the idea that you go out to eat around 6 or 7 pm on the weekend. Places that are packed on Friday at 6:45 are where to go. Busy means quality, and if a place is slow, it must be bad. We must change that idea for small restaurants to survive.

We want more people to make reservations so we can plan better. We want people to start dining earlier or later and on different days. We want couples to start a tradition of "date night" on Tuesday. We need people to start to feel that they can have a great time with great food on any given night and not just on the "busy" nights, because there aren't any "busy" nights with social distancing.

The problems we face are not unique to us. We are literally "all in this together" (cue heartfelt music).

The social distancing required for us to beat this virus affects the corporate chain restaurants too, it is just that they have deeper pockets, better cost controls, and often an ability to operate at a loss. If we have a war of attrition with this virus, at the end of the day, only the large chains will be able to last. The industry will keep chugging on, just without us.

We can adapt to these changes so we can continue to serve our community and friends. We ask that you adapt and change your habits along with us. ■

Jeffery Passerotti, Wendy Watson and Kiyallah Heatherstone are co-owners of rye food & drink.

what's happening

The murder of George Floyd on May 25 by a Minneapolis police officer has stirred anger and weeks of protest nationwide, including Eugene. Police reform is now the top agenda of many activists, and a recent Pew Research poll finds that the notion of reform is gaining traction, be it incrementally or with large-scale restructuring. But how would reform work and what would it look like? That's the topic of a virtual **Think & Drink Conversation with Samuel Sinyangwe and Nkenge Harmon Johnson** on "Safety, Justice and Policing," sponsored by Oregon Humanities. Johnson has been the president and CEO of Urban League of Portland since 2015 and has served on the staffs of several politicians, including President Barack Obama. Sinyangwe is a data scientist who leads the development research, digital tools and platforms to end police violence and systemic racism. His work can be found on the web sites for Mapping Police Violence and Campaign Zero. The conversation is moderated by Omar El Akkad, journalist and author.

A virtual Think & Drink Conversation with Samuel Sinyangwe and Nkenge Harmon Johnson on "Safety, Justice and Policing" is 5 pm Tuesday, July 21, sponsored by Oregon Humanities. More information and RSVP is at OregonHumanities.org. — *Dan Buckwalter*

GENERAL

LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ACTIVIST ALERT

Thursday, July 16: CLDC: Resisting Grand Juries: What You Need to Know (online), 3-5pm. More info at CLDC Facebook page.

Thursday, July 16: Psychedelic Justice: BIPOC Voices Matter! (online, hosted by Psychedelic Safety, Support and Integration - Chicago), 7-8:30pm. More info at BIPOC Voices Matter! Facebook page.

Wednesday, July 22: DNA Eugene: General Neighborhood Membership meeting w/ guest Eric Richardson of Eugene-Springfield NAACP, 6-7:30pm via Zoom (zoom.us/j/95573450069).

ONLINE MEETINGS FOR 12-STEP PROGRAMS

Al-Anon Anonymous meetings can be found at AlaNonLaneor.us.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings can be found at EviAaweb.org.

Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings can be found at Coda.org.

Debtors Anonymous meetings can be found at OregonDebtorsAnonymous.org.

Emotions Anonymous meetings can be found at EmotionsAnonymous.org.



Marijuana Anonymous meetings can be found at Marijuana-Anonymous.org.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings can be found at na.org.

Overeaters Anonymous meetings can be found at oa.org.

Refuge Recovery meetings can be found at Refufo.ro/geRecovery.org.

HEALTH

Zoom classes at YMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAMForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at EvolveFitnessStudios.com.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

KIDS/FAMILY

Jr. Day Camps (thru July 31), 9am-3pm, Garden Way Church, 231 North Garden Way. \$125 per week.

NAACP: Free Daily Cultural Camp for kids (thru July 31), 10am-2pm, Mims House, 330 High St.

ONLINE FAMILY

ENTERTAINMENT

Explore.org, live cams from around the world.

Oregon State Parks, Nature: Live in Your Family Room, Oregon-StateParks.org.

OMSI Live stream events. Short notice on these events. More info at OMSI Facebook page.

"Springfield Public Library - Where Minds Grow," Springfield Public Library YouTube channel.

ONLINE EXHIBITS

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Jsma.Uoregon.edu.

Karin Clarke Gallery, KarinClarkeGallery.com.

Maude Kerns Art Center, MkCenter.org.

White Lotus Gallery, WLotus.org.

NON-ONLINE EXHIBITS

Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, Springfield. More info at EmeraldArtCenter.org.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Classes and programs online w/ Museum of Natural & Cultural History (UO), MNCH.Uoregon.edu.

Opportunities at Extension. OregonState.edu. Oregon State University Extension Service.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

FANS on Relix.com. Some streams FREE, others cost. More info at Relix.com.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, via Zoom. Meetings can be found at BlueCliffZen.org.

THURSDAY

JULY 16

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

ONLINE FAMILY & KIDS

Tween Scene Book Club, 4pm. Conversation about Artemis Fowl. Call Eugene Public Library for Zoom link at 541-682-5450.

LIVE MUSIC

Cherry Hill, 7 pm, beer-garden.

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 7pm. Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

ONLINE BENEFITS

Ophelia's Place Virtual BINGO Night, 6:30 pm. More info at OpheliasPlace.net. \$20.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Creative Writing Series: Structural Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon-1pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

FRIDAY

JULY 17

LIVE MUSIC

RIFFLE, 6pm, Bennett Vineyards & Wine Company.

Daddy Rabbit, 7pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

The Porch Band, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

ONLINE FAMILY GATHERINGS

Oregon Zoo Live, activities developed by an award-winning education team aimed at K-5, 9:30am, OregonZoo.org.

Noche Cultural 2020 via Zoom, 6-7:30pm. Includes Mariachi and harp performances, salsa dancing and folk music from Ecuador, Peru and Chile. RSVP at NocheCultural.com.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Eugene City Club ("Should Citizens Choose their Legislators or Legislators Choose their Citizens?") w/ state sen. Lee Beyer, noon, Eugene City Club Facebook page. Also available on Monday, 7pm, on KLCC, 89.7 FM.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Creative Writing Series: Structural Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

Feldenkrais Awareness through Movement classes, 6pm. Info and RSVP at 541-636-8131.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Epic Fridays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

"Virtual Cinema" w/ Broadway Metro. More info at BroadwayMetro.com.

SATURDAY

JULY 18

FARMERS MARKETS

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Growers Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

LIVE MUSIC

9th Annual Blues and Brews Blueberry Festival, 10am-6pm, Adkins Blueberry Farm.

Geoffrey Mays, 6 pm, Territorial Vineyards.

Brian Chevalier & Heavy Chevy, 7pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-5pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.7 FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra-Sonic Sound (new experimental, noise, drone, minimal music), 10pm-midnight, KEPW, 97.3 FM.

SUNDAY

JULY 19

FARMERS MARKETS

Dexter Lake Farmers Market, noon-4pm, Rolling Rock Park, Lowell.

LIVE MUSIC

The River Stop Sunday Jam in Waltherville, 6pm.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Springfield.

MARKETS

Whiteaker Community Market, 11am-4pm, Scobert Park, 4th Ave & Blair Blvd.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Eugene Insight Meditation Community via Zoom, 6:30pm. More info at EugeneInsight.com.

ON THE AIR

Eugene Symphony Orchestra concert from January, 2020, 1pm, KWAX, 99.1 FM.

MONDAY

JULY 20

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Virtual STEM Summer Camp on Minecraft, 9am-noon. More info at LetsGo2Space.com. \$37.50.

Creative Writing Series: Imaginative Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

Musical Mondays (music education videos), 10am, Eugene Symphony Orchestra Facebook page.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30 pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Give Life Meaning, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$10.

TUESDAY

JULY 21

FARMERS MARKETS

Tuesday Farmers Market, 10am-3pm, Lane County Farmers Market, E. 8th Ave & Oak St.

LIVE MUSIC

Roosters Blues Jam, 7pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Virtual Queer Town Hall, 9am, BasicRights.org.

Classic Tuesdays w/ Eugene Symphony Orchestra, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Creative Writing Series: Imaginative Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

Feldenkrais Awareness through Movement classes, 10am. Info and RSVP at 541-636-8131.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30 pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Conversation w/ Samuel Sinyangwe and Nkenge Harmon Johnson on Safety, Justice and Policing, 5-6:30pm. More info and RSVP at OregonHumanities.org.

ONLINE RECREATION

Tuesdays w/ Ty (virtual trivia), 6pm, Hult Ctr Facebook page.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 22

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Zoom Group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LIVE MUSIC

Jazz & Variety, 6pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

Elroy Jordin, 7pm, The Public House.

ONLINE FAMILY & KIDS

Little Notes Music Time, 9:30am. More info at Eugene Suzuki Music Academy Facebook page.

Kids: Bees! Learn about bees and pollination w/ video by WREN, 1pm, Eugene Public Library's Facebook page

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Family Wednesdays w/ Eugene Symphony Orchestra, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at Beth.Green.as.me.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30 pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Creative Writing Series: Imaginative Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

THURSDAY

JULY 23

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LIVE MUSIC

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 7pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

Elena Leona Project, 7pm, beergarden.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Young Philosophers: A Gutenberg College Summer Experience, 8:30am-2:30pm. More info and RSVP at Gutenberg.edu. \$15.

Creative Writing Series: Structural Temperament, 10-11am. More info and RSVP at OakHillSchool.com. \$80.

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon-1pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

Speak like a Business Leader, 6-7pm. More info and RSVP at Willamette.Score.org.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

Day Trippers

A QUANTUM LOOP COMPLICATES THINGS IN THE SURPRISING ROMANTIC COMEDY *PALM SPRINGS*

By Rick Levin

Perhaps our ongoing national catastrophe, and all the exhaustion and despair it entails, have weakened my critical faculties, but I must say I was unexpectedly pleased by *Palm Springs*, a new Hulu streamer that can only be described as low investment, high reward and delightfully diverting all around.

Like *Groundhog Day*, the film pivots on the quantum weirdness of a man trapped in a time loop, cursed to live the same day over and over, perhaps forever. In *Palm Springs*, that man is Nyles (Andy Samberg), a slacker nihilist whose approach to this eternal returning is a kind of bored permanent vacation. Like, whatever, dude, might as well have a beer and kick back, maybe try to get laid.

The day in question is a wedding in the desert, where Nyles is mysteriously hunted with bow and arrow by Roy (the always excellent J.K. Simmons), who is also trapped in this day for reasons I won't reveal here. Early in the film, Roy tracks Nyles to a cave, where he crawls in and, presto, wakes up once more in today.

Unfortunately, and against Nyles warnings, the bride's sister Sarah (Cristin Milioti) follows him into the cave. In one of this film's several delicious twists, we don't know

how many times Nyles has seduced Sarah during his infinite passages through "today"; all we know is that this time he's fucked it up, and they're both stuck.

As with the time-flip conceit in *Groundhog Day*, the possibilities for romantic comedy in *Palm Springs* are rich, though writer Andy Siara and director Max Barbakow take them in a different, though no less fruitful, direction here, playing on the idea of commitment rather than

override its own possibilities, finding instead just the right balance between romance and comedy, punch and punchline. It is incredibly sweet, the more so because it is unafraid of a little sourness, nor the high-low of carnal slapstick.

As good as the writing might be, *Palm Springs* is ultimately carried by its two leads, whose chemistry is more a relational bonhomie than pure passionate spark, as befits the situation. Samberg, who altogether sheds his dorky *SNL* vibe, is incredibly charming and restrained, and he earns every emotion and every joke with cool ease.

Milioti, likewise, is fantastic. She's like a warmer, more empathetic Aubrey Plaza, not altogether convinced of world-weary cynicism that wants to possess her. Plaza's comic depths vibrate in furious quirks that barely break the surface; Milioti's comedy, on the other hand, draws from the surface inward, pulling us toward an ache that wants to communicate itself.

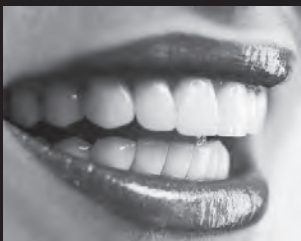
Palm Springs is a slight film, a sleeper with respectably moderate ambitions that sneaks up on you with a little bit of naughty and a lot of nice until it insinuates its way into your heart. It's a great piece of escapism, and a lovely loop of time well worth traveling. ■

PALM SPRINGS IS FUNNY, OFTEN RIOTOUSLY SO, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IT IS JUST THE RIGHT KIND OF SMART

moral reckoning. Whereas Bill Murray had to become a decent human being to escape the loop, Nyles and Sarah are forced to negotiate their relationship through an endless and unchanging present.

Palm Springs is funny, often riotously so, but more importantly it is just the right kind of smart: It is neither too clever with its existential truths nor too fluffy to

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because it serves
as her meditation.



eugeneymca.org/REOPENING

Classical Garage Band

SPIRE DUO'S WEEKEND CONCERT BROUGHT ART SONG TO AN AUDIENCE IN THE STREET

By Joanna Mann

Four months ago, classical singer **Emma Rose Lynn** could never have guessed that her next live concert would be performed right out of her garage. Virtual concerts aren't every musician's forte, so Lynn and her pianist, **Andrew Pham**, decided to go with something a little homier. Literally.

"Andrew and I are both full-time freelance musicians, so when COVID happened, it was pretty drastic," Lynn says. "All of a sudden, my entire livelihood disappeared."

What do you do when you're a classical piano/soprano duo that misses the magic of live performance but cannot book a concert hall?

You draw chalk circles spaced six feet apart in the driveway of your south Eugene home, hand out masks and alcohol wipes, and put on a phenomenal show to the music-starved community members of Eugene. Bring your own snacks and folding chairs, please.

Lynn and Pham formed **Spire Duo** in 2017. The two share a love for classical music and "art song" — a genre which includes poems set to music, usually written for one voice with piano accompaniment.

"It's a really fascinating journey because you're

working with both a poet and a composer, and then you're interpreting the composer's interpretation of the poem," Lynn says.

At the July 11 concert, she recited each poem into a microphone before singing it so the audience could appreciate the lyrics on a deeper level. Many of the poems had a summer theme, which went along with the picnic vibe of the whole evening. Concert-goers were even lucky enough to skip out on the rain and enjoy colorful splashes of color in the sky as the sun set.

In addition to Spire Duo, Neil Patton was a featured guest at the concert; playing three original piano compositions. Pham met Patton a few years back at a dance recital that Patton was playing at. Pham says he immediately noticed how deeply Patton connected with music, and thought his musicianship would fit nicely into a Spire Duo show.

The socially distant audience consisted of about 50 friends, family and community members who knew Lynn and Pham through a variety of interactions around town. One couple knew Pham from the pickleball courts, and some others had taken Lynn's eight-week intensive, The Empowered Voice.

Mary Gent and Camilla Carter took Lynn's workshop,

which aimed "for womxn to cultivate deep self-knowing" through song. Carter used to play the piano for Lynn, and Gent continues to take vocal lessons with her several times a month.

"She is the voice teacher I unequivocally give recommendations to," Carter says during intermission at the concert. "Once you know her, you want to support her."

Carter is not the only one who was eager for Spire Duo to get back into the spotlight. When the duo decided they wanted to do something live, they held a Zoom meeting with some of their most supportive community members to run the idea of a garage concert by them. The response was an emphatic yes, and Spire Duo started brainstorming ideas of how they might pull off a live concert successfully and safely. The result was something deeply personal and truly special.

Lynn's soprano voice carried flawlessly outdoors, and the Kawai piano was easily heard as well. Among the poems Lynn sang were "Always it's Spring" by e.e. cummings, "Fleurs" by Louise de Vilmorin and "Sure on this Shining Night" by James Agee.

Unsuspecting joggers slowed down as they passed the house, curious as to why they were hearing classical music in a simple neighborhood setting. Even the neighbor's cat pranced by to see what all the commotion was about.

While we are all eager to get "back to normal," whatever that may mean in the future, there are some parts of COVID culture that we might like to keep around. Hopefully driveway concerts don't disappear with the virus, because the experience was intimate. Precautions were taken to help the audience feel safe, and they were free to sit back, relax and fall into the music. ■

Find out more about Emma Rose Lynn at EmmaRoseLynn.com, and about Spire Duo's future performances at SpireDuo.com.

Supporting Black Artists in Eugene

A LOOK INTO SOME OF EUGENE'S TALENTED BLACK PERFORMERS

By Frankie Kerner

Eugene is not known for its racial diversity. In fact, the city has a long history of racism. Black people have been marginalized in Oregon since its inception through property laws, police violence and more.

According to the 2019 U.S. Census, 1.6 percent of the population in Eugene identifies as Black or African American, 6.2 percent identifies as two or more races and 83.3 percent identify as white.

Eugene's music and art scene is primarily populated by white performers, a reflection of that lack of diversity. However, there is a wealth of talent to be found in the performers, dancers and musicians in Eugene who are Black.

While Eugene still has a long way to go in terms of racial equity, there has been a recent shift in highlighting the voices of Black people locally. Though the following list doesn't cover the full scope of talented Black performers in Eugene, here are a few artists you can support right now:

Tumelo Michael Moloi is originally from South Africa, but he moved to the U.S. to further pursue his dance career. After performing with Cirque du Soleil for 11 years in Las Vegas, Moloi came to Eugene. Now, he is a full-time dancer performing with different local studios, but he also writes poetry and makes art and jewelry.

Moloi says his goal is to share the culture of South Africa with the city of Eugene, and specifically to the community's kids. "Not everyone is privileged to travel

all over the world and learn about different cultures," Moloi says. "But since we are here, I feel like we can use these opportunities to teach kids about other cultures and histories."

m5 Vibe is a rapper and spoken-word poet. He started making music three years ago and since then has performed at Matthew Knight Arena, Oregon Country Fair, the Whiteaker Block Party and more. Initially, m5, aka Marcus Holloway, says he started making music "out of desperation." He says, "I was in a really bad place, and I was just writing all my feelings out basically in a rhythmic pattern." m5 is originally from Georgia and served in the U.S. military for 10 years. Afterward, he says he decided to get active about what he believed in. "In the military you're not allowed to take sides," he says. "You can, but you have to be really discreet about it. Once I got out, I started getting active. I came back to see that we're still fighting a war here in America."

Now, m5 uses his music as a platform to voice his experiences living as a Black man in America.

The West African Cultural Arts Institute is a nonprofit arts organization with a mission "to share the joy and passion of Guinean culture through vibrant educational programs in drumming and dancing," according to Andrea DiPalma Yansane, who co-founded the institute with her husband, Alseny Yansane.

Since 2007, WACAI has been providing opportunities for kids and adults, including drum and dance classes.

The Yansanes run the programs with their son, Papa.

They also collaborate with other artists and organizations in town. "Alseny is an authentic, source artist from Guinea who has trained as a traditional performance artist since childhood and worked and toured with the world renowned Ballets Africains for fourteen years before arriving in Eugene," according to DiPalma Yansane.

DiPalma Yansane lived in Guinea with her husband for seven years, where she studied traditional Guinean drumming, dancing and culture. They have over 50 years of collective experience doing arts education.

Darline Jackson's My Band is a "creative group of vocalists and musicians creating soulful music that keeps you toe tapping, dancing and rocking," according to their Facebook bio. They performed at the Juneteenth event at Alton Baker Park on June 20, bringing funk and soul to Eugene. Jackson is described as a "powerhouse soul diva" on the band's bio, covering music from a variety of decades and genres.

Carlos "Retro" Rasmussen is a freestyle dancer. In eighth grade, he saw a video of Marquese Scott dancing to Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" and decided to try it out himself. Now, Rasmussen calls his dancing "freestyle animation," using a combination of waving, popping, locking, tutting (a dance style based on intricate movements) and gliding while also implementing ballet, hip hop, modern dance and krumping. "I just do whatever I feel in the moment," he says. "I like making a story that is in my mind come to life. I bring out this story in my head and give it motion, and try to be animated while in the process of doing so."

Rasmussen teaches dance classes at Denbaya Drum and Dance, Flex Studios and Xcape Dance Academy. "People get intimidated when they think of going to a dance class," he says. "But instead of giving steps and doing choreography every single time, I more so give you an idea on how you can move your body or how you can use movement, and from there let you experience how your body feels most comfortable moving." ■

For more information on the performers listed, you can visit MichaelMoloi.Art, YouTube.Com/CarlosRetroRasmussen, m5 [Vibe on Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/artist/5m5vibe), WestAfricanCulturalArts.org and Facebook.com/DarlineJackson.myband.

classifieds

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8/29/2020. Write letter to Billy Dahmen,
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email at surveydahmen@gmail.com. No
drop by visitors. Provide contact information
(name, phone, address) plus make,
model and bar size of chainsaw to claim.
Date of loss would also be helpful if more
than one person claims it

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE** In the Matter
of the Marriage of: Pedro M. Aguilar,
Petitioner and Natasha A. Anderson,
Respondent. **SUMMONS DOMESTIC
RELATIONS SUIT TO:** Natasha A. Anderson,
Respondent. The petitioner has filed a
Petition asking for: Motion for order to show
cause for modification of custody, parent-
ing time and child support. If you do not file
the appropriate legal paper with the court
in the time required (see below), the peti-
tioner may ask the court for a judgment
against you that orders the relief request-
ed. **NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: READ THESE
PAPERS CAREFULLY!** You must "appear" in
this case or the other side will win automati-
cally. To "appear" you must file with the
Court a legal paper called a "Response" or
"Motion." Response forms may be available
through the court located at: 125 E. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401. This Response must be
filed with the court clerk or administrator
within thirty (30) days of the date of first
publication specified herein: 06/18/20
along with the required filing fee. It must be
in proper form and you just show that the
Petitioner's attorney (or the Petitioner if he/
she does not have an attorney) was served
with a copy of the "Response" or "Motion." The
location to file your response is at the
court address indicated above. If you have
questions, you should see an attorney
immediately. If you need help finding an
attorney, you may contact the Oregon State
Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at
www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling
(503)684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan
area) or toll free elsewhere in Oregon at
(800)452-7636. If special accommodation
under the Americans with Disabilities Act is
needed, please contact your local court at the
address above: telephone number:
(541)682-4203 Petitioner Signature: /s/
Pedro M. Aguilar 49686 High Prairie Loop,
Oakridge, OR 97463 (541)782-2866 /s/
Pedro M. Aguilar

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** In the Matter
of the Estate of DANIEL ALLEN MEDRANO,
Deceased. Case No. 20PB04184 **NOTICE
TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Notice is here-
by given that Janice Ann Medrano has
been appointed and has qualified as the
personal representative of said estate. All
persons having claims against said estate
are hereby required to present the same,
with proper vouchers, within four months
after the date of first publication of this
notice, as state below, to the attorney for
the personal representative at: Marc D.
Perrin, Attorney at Law, 777 High Street,
Suite 110, Eugene, OR 97401 or they may
be barred. All persons whose rights may
be affected by the proceedings in this
estate may obtain additional information
from the records of the courts, the person-
al representative or the attorney for the
personal representative. DATED and first

published: 07/16/20. Janice Ann Medrano,
Personal Representative, 4895 West
Hillside Drive, Eugene, OR 97405. Marc D.
Perrin OSB #823663, Attorney for
Personal Representative, 777 High Street,
Suite 110, Eugene, OR 97401

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** In the Matter
of the Estate of JANICE ROSE DEIG,
Deceased. Case No. 20PB04011 **NOTICE
TO INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS
GIVEN that Karen Fabiano and Ron Perez
have been appointed co-personal repre-
sentatives of this estate. All persons hav-
ing claims against the estate are required
to present them, with vouchers attached,
to the co-personal representative c/o
Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 975
Oak St., Suite 615, Eugene, OR 97401,
(541)345-0795, within four months of the
date of first publication of this notice, or
the claims may be barred. All persons
whose rights may be affected by the pro-
ceedings may obtain additional informa-
tion from the records of the court, the
co-personal representatives, or the
co-personal representatives' attorney,
Robert Cole Tozer. DATED and first pub-
lished July 9th, 2020. Co-Personal
Representatives /s/ Karen Fabiano /s/ Ron
Perez

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** Probate
Department In the Matter of the Estate of
MATTHEW JASON MILLAM, Deceased.
Case No. 20PB02705 **NOTICE TO
INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS GIVEN
that Giselle Fuller has been appointed per-
sonal representative of this estate. All
persons having claims against the estate
are required to present them, with vouch-
ers attached, to the personal representa-
tive c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at
Law, 975 Oak St., Suite 615, Eugene, OR
97401, (541)345-0795, within four months
of the date of first publication of this
notice, or the claims may be barred. All
persons whose rights may be affected by
the proceedings may obtain additional
information from the records of the court,
the personal representative, or the per-
sonal representatives attorney, Robert
Cole Tozer. DATED and first published July
9th, 2020. Personal Representative /s/
Giselle Fuller

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE
PROBATE DEPARTMENT** In the Matter of
the Estate of: Case No. 20PB03943
Anneliese Craig, Deceased **NOTICE TO
INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that Theresa Engbrecht has been
appointed Personal Representative of the
above Estate. All persons having claims
against the Estate are required to present
them, with vouchers, to the undersigned
Personal Representative at 626 B Street,
Springfield, Oregon 97477-4615, within
four (4) months after the date of first
publication of this notice, or those claims
may be barred. All persons whose rights
may be affected by the proceedings may
obtain additional information from the
records of the Court, the Personal
Representative, or the attorney for the
Personal Representative. DATED and first
published on July 2nd, 2020. /s/ Theresa
Engbrecht, Personal Representative: 5257
E Street; Phone: (503) 268-9768.

SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: ★☆☆☆
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		9	4		3	5		
	7	4	5		8	9	1	
7	5						9	2
				7				
3	4					5	1	
	3	5	8		2	6	7	
		2	1		7	8		

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.



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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES
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Across

1 Maker of Musk cologne and
perfume
6 1990 World Series MVP
Jose
10 Ruler of Iran, once
14 "Legend of a Cowgirl"
singer Coppola
15 No longer a fan of
16 Sagacious
17 Subject of library
censorship
19 Like many vaccines
20 Before, to Byron
21 ___ terrier (Toto's breed)
22 Fantasy sports option
23 Bandleader known as
"The King of Swing"
25 Orchard measures
28 Basis of the game Ticket
to Ride, for short
29 "Dawn" author Wiesel
30 Awards show hosts
34 Twaddle
37 In fine order

40 Multi-vol. reference set
41 Lets pass
42 Fridge problem
43 Life story
44 Basil and pine nut
topping
45 Cheap bowiful, maybe
52 "Magpie and the
Dandelion" band The ___
Brothers
53 Prepare for baking, as
challah dough
54 "The Racer's Edge"
57 Coin-shaped Hanukkah
candy
58 Pet owner's alternative
to kibble
60 Kathryn of "Law & Order:
Criminal Intent"
61 One way to run
62 Actress Dreyfuss of "Dear
Evan Hansen"
63 Yelp rating unit
64 Past the due date
65 Canadian ballplayers,

once

Down

1 Agree (with)
2 Epps of "House M.D."
3 Barn attachment
4 "Barbara ___" (Beach
Boys hit)
5 Family tree members
6 Batman's sidekick
7 Soap that floats, per old
slogans
8 "The Masked Singer"
panelist Ken
9 1978-82 sitcom planet
10 Suit in a tarot deck
11 U.S. Grant's original first
name
12 Carne ___ fries
13 "Hobbs & Shaw" actress
Mirren
18 Rather prominent on the
internet these days
22 Many a museum marble
23 Served as

"Double Negatives"

—it's one way to double up.

24 108-year-old cookies that
thankfully have a bunch of
varieties to keep things fresh
25 Prefix with plane or
dynamics
26 You're reading it
27 What a tangelo is tangled
up in?
30 ___ a high note
31 "2001" studio
32 CBS show with many
spinoffs
33 911 responder
34 High degrees
35 Enormously
36 One who believes that
one hand makes light work?
38 "___ Mad At Cha" (Tupac
Shakur song)
39 Little piggies, perhaps
43 Recovering
44 Hawk
45 Goes ballistic
46 Deflect
47 Peach ___ (Escoffier
creation)
48 Appointer of Justice
Kagan
49 "Ready ___, here I come!"
50 Thanks, to J,rgen
51 "Where's the ___?"
54 Stock option?
55 Lawnmower brand that
means "bull" in Spanish
56 BlackBerries and Palm
Pilots, e.g.
58 Schenkel who designed
many Zappa album covers
59 Not-entirely-secure
method of sending
documents

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S

DVD	USD	CLICKS
JOIN	RAE	HAVEON
SUPER	IMP	ARIANA
CLEO	STRIKE	SAP
OH	OMAHA	SEMI
BEMOTE	TBS	DIN
DRAG	ALGERIA	
THE	GOLDENGO	
ONE	VOTE	OKLA
ATI	TRI	ZAGREB
GOOS	NAMES	ADS
CUTTING	LO	ACLU
OCTAVO	PURPLE	PR
RHODES	HRE	IATE
BESTRY	AND	FOX

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): “If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time,” wrote Aries educator and activist Dorothy Height. This approach worked well during her 98 years on the planet. Her pioneering advocacy for African American women generated a number of practical improvements in their employment opportunities and civil rights. In accordance with the current astrological omens, Aries, I highly recommend her guiding principle for your use. You now have the power to ripen the time, even if no one else believes the time is ripe.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): “Whatever inspiration is, it’s born from a continuous ‘I don’t know.’” A wise and talented woman said that: Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it’s excellent advice for you to embrace during the coming weeks. You’re close to finding and accessing a mother lode of inspiration, and one of the best ways to ensure that happens in an optimal way is to make “I don’t know” your mantra. In other words, be cheerfully devoted to shedding your certainties. Lose your attachment to the beliefs and theories you tend to overly rely on. Make yourself as empty and clear and spacious as you possibly can.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Gemini-born author Djuna Barnes (1892–1982) was a world traveler who wrote in several different genres, ranging from lesbian fiction to essays on boxing to plays that used poetic language. She was experimental and empirical and experiential. On one occasion, she voluntarily submitted to the force-feeding endured by hunger-striking suffragists so she could write about what it was like to be tortured. Another fun fact about Djuna: Every morning, she did up her hair and put her make-up on, then climbed into bed and wrote for many hours. In the coming weeks, Gemini, I recommend you draw inspiration from every aspect of her life — except the torture part, of course. The coming weeks will be a fine time to be versatile, exploratory, and committed to expressing yourself purely in whatever ways make you comfortably excited.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): As a Cancerian, you have a natural propensity to study and understand what author Margaret Atwood describes as “echoes and emptiness and shadow.” I believe this aspect of your repertoire will be especially active and available to you in the coming weeks. For best results, regard your attunement to these echoes and emptiness and shadow as an asset, even a precious talent. Use it to discern what’s missing or lost but could be recovered. Invoke it to help you navigate your way through murky or confusing situations. Call on it to help you see important things that are invisible to others.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): “Time can turn a scab into a beauty mark,” said actor and screenwriter Nia Vardalos. That’s a rousing poetic speculation — and more metaphorically true than literally. But I suspect that if it ever might have a useful and meaningful application to an actual human struggle, it will be yours in the coming months. In my view, you are in fact capable of harnessing the magic necessary to transform a wound into a lovely asset. Be bold and imaginative as you carry out this seemingly improbable feat — which is actually not improbable.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Would you like to boost your mental and physical health in the coming weeks? Try this: Immerse yourself in the understanding that you’re interconnected with everything in the world. Tell yourself stories about how the atoms that compose your body have previously been part of many other things. This isn’t just a poetic metaphor; it’s scientific fact. Now study this passage by science writer Ella Frances Sanders: “The carbon inside you could have existed in any number of creatures or natural disasters before finding you. That particular atom residing somewhere above your left eyebrow? It could well have been a smooth riverbed pebble before deciding to call you home. You are rock and wave and the peeling bark of trees, you are ladybirds and the smell of a garden after the rain.”

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): It’s a favorable time to celebrate the fantastic privilege of being alive. Are you willing to believe that? Will you cooperate with my intention to nudge you in the direction of elation and exaltation? Are you open to the possibility that miracles and epiphanies may be at hand for you personally? To help get yourself in the proper mood, read this passage by Libran author Diane Ackerman: “The great affair, the love affair with life, is to live as variously as possible, to groom one’s curiosity like a high-spirited thoroughbred, climb aboard and gallop over the thick, sun-struck hills every day.”

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): “Deciding to remember, and what to remember, is how we decide who we are,” writes poet Robert Pinsky. That’s useful counsel for you right now, Scorpio. You’re entering a phase when you can substantially reframe your life story so that it serves you better. And one of the smartest ways to do that is to take an inventory of the memories you want to emphasize versus the memories you’d like to minimize. Another good trick is to reinterpret challenging past events so that you can focus on how they strengthened you and mobilized your determination to be true to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): “A person must dream a long time in order to act with grandeur,” wrote Sagittarian author and activist Jean Genet. “And dreaming is nursed in darkness.” According to my analysis of your astrological omens, this is an apt description of what has been unfolding for you, Sagittarius — and will continue to play out for you in the next two weeks. If you’re aligned with cosmic rhythms, you have been nursing your dreams in darkness — exploring and cultivating and learning from the raw creative energy that is simmering and ripening in your inner depths. Keep doing this important work, even if there are not yet any productive results. Eventually, it will enable you to “act with grandeur,” as Genet said.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau said, “There are truths that one can only say after having won the right to say them.” In my estimation, you have recently earned the right to express a fresh batch of scintillating and useful truths. Please do us all a favor and unveil them — preferably with both candor and tact. In behalf of everyone who will benefit from your insights, I’m sending you congratulations for the work you’ve had to do on yourself so as to win them.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): “After you make a fool of yourself a few hundred times, you learn what works,” testifies musician and singer Gwen Stefani. In my own life, I’ve had to make a fool of myself more than a few hundred times to learn what works. My number is closer to a thousand — and I’m still adding new examples on a regular basis. In the coming weeks, Aquarius, I highly recommend that you try what has served me and Gwen Stefani so well. You’re entering a phase when your foolishness will generate especially useful lessons. Being innocent and wildly open-minded will also be very useful.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): “It is better to err on the side of daring than the side of caution,” wrote author and futurist Alvin Toffler. While I hesitate to declare that idea to be absolutely and always true, I do recommend it to you in the coming weeks. Given the fact that you have recently been expanding possibilities and cultivating breakthroughs, I’d love to see you keep on pushing forward until you climax your momentum. To boost your courage, try to think of a crazy cry of exhilaration you might exclaim as you make your leaps, like “YAHOO!” or “HELL YES!” or “HERE I COME!”

Homework: What’s the best change you’ve experienced since the beginning of the pandemic? FreeWillAstrology.com

Go to RealAstrology.com

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classifieds

Attorney for Personal Representative: R. Scott Corey, P.C., 626 B Street, Springfield, Oregon 97477-4615; Phone: (541) 484-0925; Fax: (541) 484-0791; E-mail: rsc@efn.org; OSB No. 910346.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of CHRISTINE MARIE WELLS, Deceased. Case No. 20PB02013 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Judy L. Wells, 2891 Stone Road, Yakima, WA 98908, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative. Dated and first published on July 2nd, 2020. /s/ Judy L. Wells, Personal Representative. Personal Representative: Judy L. Wells, 2891 Stone Road, Yakima, WA 98908, 509-966-7818. Attorney for Personal Representative: Marc P. Friedman, OSB #892448, Friedman Law Office, P.C., P.O. Box 1167, Eugene, Or 97440, (541)686-2890, Fax: (541)344-6254, attyfriedman@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF HOWARD NORMAN JOHNSON LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 20 PB 03660 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JEFFREY HOWARD JOHNSON has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, Gaydos, Churnside & Balthrop, P.C., PO Box 1499, Eugene,

Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 07/02/20. ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, Gaydos, Churnside & Balthrop, PC, PO Box 1499, Eugene, OR 97440, (541)343-8060; Fax (541)343-1599 mark@oregonlegalteam.com

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY - PROBATE DEPARTMENT Case No. 20PB03547 In the matter of the Estate of Maxine Alta Adams, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wilfred R. Adams has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned personal representative c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY - PROBATE DEPARTMENT Case No. 20PB03188 In the matter of the Estate of Charlotte Gordon, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

Catherine Kling has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned personal representative c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate proceedings in the Estate of Stephanie Rae McAlister, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 20PB03954, and Lawrence E. Little has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 2nd day of July, 2020.

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XXXX You're my downfall, you're my muse
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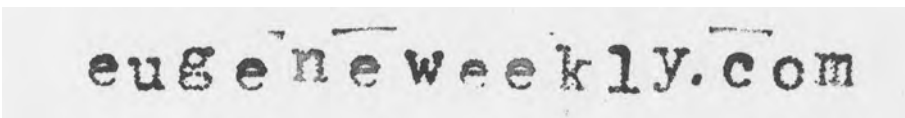
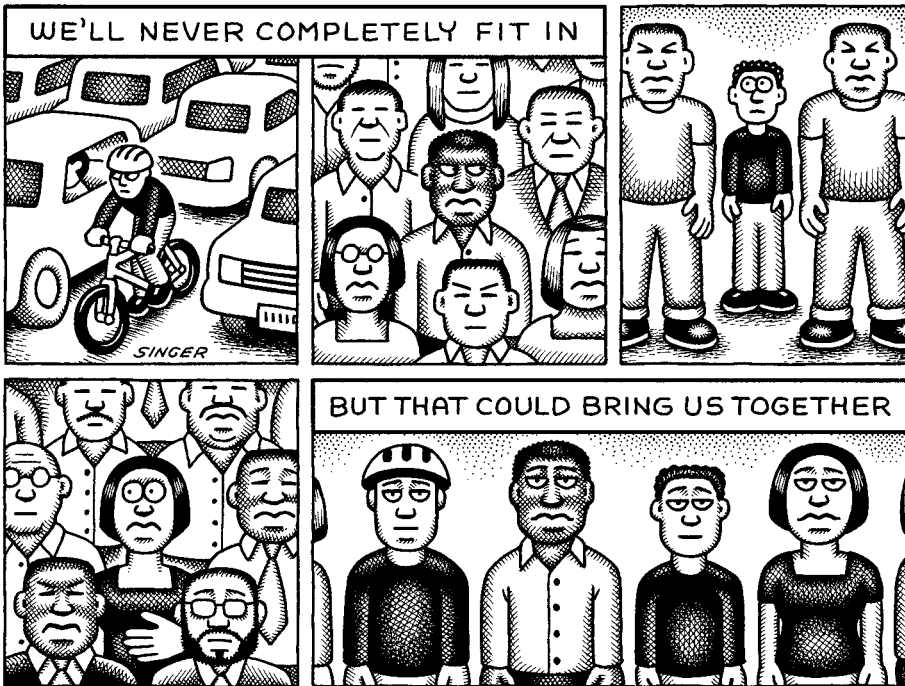
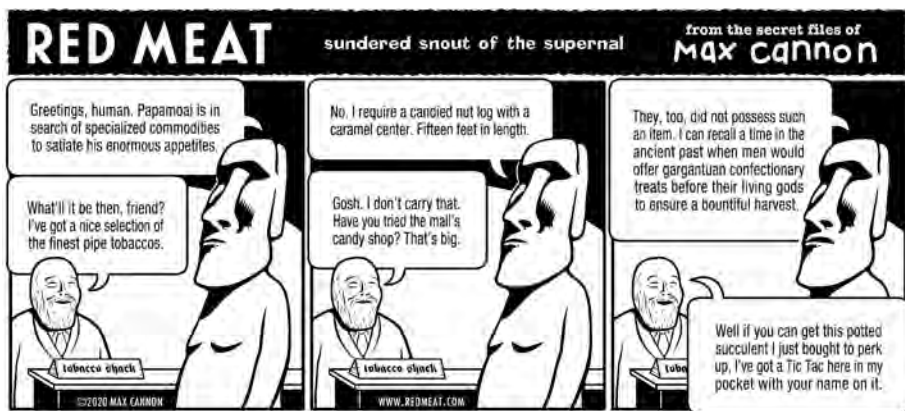
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SAVAGE LOVE

Unplugged
BY DAN SAVAGE



My wife asked me to write to you about our situation. We've been married for 15 years. I am 50 years old and my wife is a decade younger. We are a heterosexual couple with kids. I am a submissive male and I like to play with my ass using different sized dildos. I enormously enjoy being penetrated with sex toys. A few years ago I introduced the idea of a FLR — female led relationship — to my wife and she accepted it. We are a happy couple! My wife is more on the traditional side of sex and I respect that. We have PIV sex twice a week and I try to give her a pleasure as much as I can. Looks like everything is OK, right? But recently she complained that I have stopped ejaculating when we have sex. And it's true: When we engage in vaginal penetration, I no longer ejaculate. I like it this way because I don't lose my sex drive and I can continue. But she doesn't like it. For her my ejaculation is the "cherry on top" of the sex and my coming during sex is important for her pleasure and satisfaction. My wife thinks that I stopped ejaculating because I developed the habit of pleasuring myself with dildos and butt plugs in the shower. My wife thinks the toys are distracting me. Do you think it's true? If that's the case, what should we do? I love my wife but I also love my butt plugs and dildos.

Spouse Unpleased By Husband's Un Blasts

You should come in your wife.

If your wife is in charge — you proposed a "female-led relationship" and she accepted — then she gets to give the orders and you're supposed to do what she says. (Within reason, of course.) So when she says, "Come in me," you should say, "How high up your vaginal canal would you like me to cum?" Even if you weren't in a female-led relationship, SUBHUB, refusing to come in your wife when you know that feeling you come inside her is important to her pleasure is a weirdly and literal kind of withholding behavior — and considering how GGG your wife has been, SUBHUB, refusing to come in her so you can "continue" presumably without her isn't something a loving submissive would do. It's something a selfish asshole does.

Your wife doubtless suspects the same thing I do: You aren't coming in her because you'd rather blow your load in the shower. She sees you when you slip out of bed to go cram sex toys in your ass and blow your load down the drain instead of finishing in her. And if that's what you're doing — and I'm pretty sure that's what you're doing — then you're treating PIV sex with your wife as foreplay and the time you spend alone with your ass toys as the main event. If I were your wife, SUBHUB, I would find that annoying too. And however much you love your plugs and dildos and I would hope you love your wife more. At any rate, you aren't submissive to your plugs and dildos — you're submissive to your wife, who isn't made of silicone and who has needs and feelings that have to be taken into account.

At the very least, SUBHUB, your wife's pleasure should be your first priority during PIV sex — and it's not like you can't combine PIV with a little butt play. You can always shove one of your beloved plugs in your ass before you have PIV sex with the wife. And if you didn't refrain from ejaculating every single time you had PIV, SUBHUB, if it was something you were allowed to once in a while with your wife's permission, she might be willing to accommodate your desire every tenth time you have PIV.

I am a 53-year-old guy. Since I've been struggling with depression and anxiety all my life, I've never been in a situation where sex was a possibility. I'm really dying to know what it's like. I've gotten much better over the years and the women who know me think the world of me. But they aren't in a position to help me out. Other women seem to want someone much more outgoing and confident than I am or ever will be. Confidence comes from experience and I don't have any. My one girlfriend could not hide the fact that my inexperience offended her. Other people on blogs and such have recommended a prostitute. But that's not really what I'm looking for. It's about more than sex. I want someone to care for me as I am. Is there hope for me? Or has the world just left me behind?

Very Inexperienced Relationship Guy In Need

I know it's not what you want to hear, VIRGIN, but I agree with other blogs and such: I think you should find a sex worker. Find a nice, patient woman who does sex work and be completely upfront about why you're seeing her: you're so painfully self-conscious about your sexual inexperience that you find it hard to date. It may take some searching, VIRGIN, but there are sex workers who want to help their clients grow and heal. "Many people have the stereotypical misconception that all sex workers are disconnected, uncaring, and only there for the money," said Ruby Ryder, a sex worker and sex educator. "While money is indeed a part of it, many of us understand that human beings need touch, connection, and acceptance. We provide an opportunity for clients to be vulnerable, whether it's fulfilling their kinky fantasies or simply having sex." And while the relationship you have with a sex worker you might see regularly for a year or two is certainly transactional, VIRGIN, it's still a relationship and about more than sex.

I'm not suggesting you see sex workers exclusively for the rest of your life (even if I'm not not suggesting that either), VIRGIN, I'm only suggesting you see a sex worker to find out what sex is like, gain a little self-confidence, and maybe feel a little more hopeful for your future.

Ruby Ryder is on Twitter @Ruby_Ryder and online at www.peggingparadise.com.

I'm a longtime reader who's never had a question that your archives couldn't answer. But there is something I wanted to share with you and your readers! My wife and I have incorporated virtual reality (VR) goggles into our sex life with great success, Dan, and they could be the answer to a range of questions that you get at the column. They're so useful, in fact, that your failure to mention them is starting to look like a glaring omission! Because let's say someone writes in who wants to open their relationship or explore a cuckold fantasy (like one of last week's letter writers!) but they're worried about the emotions involved, potential STIs, or COVID-19? VR goggles! While the offerings for female POV VR porn is pretty paltry I've never seen my wife come harder than she did with me inside her and a pair of goggles on her face giving her the perspective of a man getting fucked by a beautiful trans woman. I love the idea that this turns her on and I actually think she looks hot with goggles on! Besides the cost of a subscription to a VR porn site, the financial barrier is really pretty low — most people can use their smartphone and a \$20 headset to get started, which is much cheaper than seeing a sex worker and much less time consuming than engineering a consenting affair. And there's no risk of STIs or COVID-19! Just wanted you to consider VR as a possibly overlooked tool for your otherwise always-outstanding advice in the future!

Very Recent Purchase Optimizes Reality Nicely

Thank you for writing in, VRPORN, and you're right: VR porn sounds like a great way for an adventurous monogamous couple to have a little virtual variety — whether that couple is monogamous by choice or monogamous for the duration of this stupid pandemic. In addition to the technology, of course, you'll need a partner who not only knows you fantasize about other people (like they do, like everybody does), but who's also excited about helping you explore those fantasies. Thanks again for sharing, VRPORN!

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